**Southminster Presbyterian Church**

**4th Sunday after Pentecost**

**June 25, 2023**

**9:30 a.m.**

Find the link for the service on one of these sites:

1) on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SouthminsterGlenEllyn/>   
2) our YouTube channel:  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPgWICngOvkmR1OXgCG_wiA/live>

3) our web site: <https://www.southminsterpc.org/>

If the video feed is interrupted during the service, we will continue to record and then post the full video on Facebook and our web site as soon as possible.

Gathering Music

Our Photo Story today is “Artists’ Reception.”

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Lighting the Candles (Galatians 5:22-23a)

**By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.**

[Please remain seated while singing these songs.]

Hymn 384: *Soon and Very Soon* (verses 1-3)

Hymn 408: *There’s a Sweet, Sweet Spirit*

Call to Worship

Leader: May the doors of Southminster be open wide enough to receive all   
 who hunger for love and friendship.

**People: May we welcome all who have cares to unburden, thanks to express,   
 and hopes to nurture.**

**All:** **We worship the living God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**

Hymn 410: *God Is Calling through the Whisper*

Prayer of Confession: (unison)

**Gracious God, we hold before you not only the hurts we have received but also the ones we have inflicted – intentionally or unintentionally. Lavish your grace upon us that we might experience your renewal of life and be your light in our community. Thank you for the blessing of the Holy Spirit and the grace we have in Christ so we may live as your people in the world. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, who is our Lord and savior. Amen.**

(Time of silence for personal prayer and confession)

Declaration of God’s Grace/The Good News of Jesus Christ

Leader: May the God of mercy who forgives all our sins

**People: Strengthen us in all goodness,**

Leader: And by the power of the Holy Spirit

**People: Keep us in eternal life.**

**All: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and made new.**

Response 582: *Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me*

**Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,**

**And to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,**

**And to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.**

**As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.**

**World without end, without end. Amen.**

**World without end, without end. Amen.**

**World without end, without end. Amen.**

**As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.**

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The Passing of the Peace

Word with Children Blair Baldwin

Children worshiping in the sanctuary, please come forward.

*God Welcomes All*  Hymnal 399

**God welcomes all, strangers and friends;**

**God’s love is strong and it never ends.**

Text: John L. Bell, 2008

Music: South African song, transc, John L. Bell, 2008

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Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Lessons:  Psalm 37:1-34 Pew Bible, p. 510, (O.T.)

Matthew 5:5 Pew Bible, p. 4, (N.T.)

Sermon: “The Garden Path – Walking with God”

Saying What We Believe/Affirmation of Faith (unison)   
 from *A Brief Statement of Faith* (PCUSA)

**In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God’s new heaven and new earth, praying, “Come, Lord Jesus!”**

Hymn: *With Beauty Before Me I Walk* (all 4 verses)

The music for this song is printed at the back of your bulletin.

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

Leader: Lord, in your mercy,

**People**: **hear our prayers.**

**The Lord’s Prayer:**

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come,   
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread;   
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into  
temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power   
and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Offering of Ourselves and Our Gifts

[The offering plate is at the back of the sanctuary. Please leave your gift or pledge  
in the plate on your way into or out of worship.]

Offertory: *Jesus, Draw Me Ever Nearer*

CCLI Song # 3552533

Keith Getty | Margaret Becker

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\**Doxology* Hymnal #606

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;**

**Praise Him all creatures here below;**

**Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;**

**Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Public domain

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

Hymn 183: *Come to Me, O Weary Traveler*

Charge and Benediction

Leader: Now go and serve the Lord,

**All: For we are blessed to be a blessing!  
 Alleluia, amen!**

Postlude

**Participants and Technical Crew**

Rev. Wendy Boden   
Liturgist: Angela Smith  
Greeter/Fellowship: Louanne Jourdan  
Musicians: Tom Anderson  
Worship Associate: David Kozich  
Tech support: Chris Kozich, Blair Nelson

The flowers today are given by Deb Bohi in honor of Deb and Dan’s wedding anniversary.

If you are present for worship, following the service you are invited by the deacons to gather for **in-person fellowship** in the narthex. Coffee and canned beverages will be served; masks and social distancing are at your discretion.

If you are online, we’re glad to have you! Using the comments section on Facebook, you can say hello, ask for words of peace, or request prayers.  
 **Sunday Morning Adult Ed. Bible Study, 11:15 a.m.:** Join us by using this link: <https://meet.google.com/fna-eojg-uye>. If you’re already at church and wish to join us, find Blair at his computer in the McHenry Parlor/Library.  
  
You are invited to join us on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/SouthminsterGlenEllyn/>), where we have a live sharing of “**Heart to Heart**” with Pastor Wendy Boden at 4:20 p.m. most weeks Tuesday through Friday.

Even though we have returned to in-person worship, we will also continue to be live on **Sunday morning for worship** at 9:30 a.m. (slideshow beginning at 9:15) on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPgWICngOvkmR1OXgCG_wiA/live>

or on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/SouthminsterGlenEllyn/>

If you are watching from home on Facebook, please check in and say hello so we can see that you have joined us. This is one way to make worship less “remote” and strengthen community at Southminster.

*The live video will appear about 15 minutes before the scheduled start time.*

*If for any reason the feed falters, rest assured that a recording will be posted to Facebook and You Tube as soon as possible.*

You can also find links to recordings of the weekday sessions, special services, and Sunday worship posted on our web site: <https://www.southminsterpc.org/> or by going to our YouTube channel:  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPgWICngOvkmR1OXgCG_wiA/videos>

**Photo Stories/PowerPoints help us feel connected!**Photo Stories/PowerPoints help us prepare for worship, connect with one another, and make sure that our at-home people get both sound and sight. You’re invited to share your photos for this date:   
 **July 2: “Our National Parks.”** For Independence Day weekend, we’d like photos   
 taken in any of our many national parks. Please send your photos by Thursday,   
 June 29.

**Send photos to our dedicated email address, used just for photos:** **[PhotoStory@Southminsterpc.org](mailto:PhotoStory@Southminsterpc.org).**

**Notes from Blair Nelson:**   
**Adult Ed. Bible Study:**We return to the minor prophet Zechariah on the 25th. Join us at 11:15 a.m. in the parlor or online via the link in the bulletin See you then.  
  
**Everyone**: Thanks for supporting our Youth Mission Team through our preparations and fundraising and praying for us during our trip. When you have a chance, be sure to ask a Mission team member about our week! We’ll have reports and photos coming later. **From the Worship Ministry:**

**Choir members and other singers:** During the summer there is no formal choir, but we still need people to help lead worship, not only for those in attendance in worship but for those at home online. If you are willing to lend your voice to this ministry, please simply come in and sit in one of the choir seats during worship.

**Singers and instrumentalists of all ages** are invited to share their gifts during summer worship. Please connect with Music Director Tom Anderson to sign up for a Sunday (or more than one) on which you’re willing to help lead us with music. Reach Tom at 651-246-5029 or [tomanderson101@gmail.com](mailto:tomanderson101@gmailcom).

**From the Mission Ministry:  
Coming in July – a “kitchen shower” for World Relief!**  
Imagine how it would feel to arrive in the United States as a refugee with nothing but what you were wearing and maybe carrying a bag or two. Throughout the month of July, our Mission Ministry will work with World Relief to host a “shower,” collecting items a refugee family would need to equip a kitchen. Check the July *Dialog* for a list of the items that are needed. (World Relief does ask that all the items be new to preserve the recipients’ dignity.)

**From the Christian Education Ministry**

The C.E. Ministry will meet today at 1-:45 a.m. in Fellowship Hall.  
  
SPC will be hosting a one-day VBS, *“Blooming Together,”* on Saturday, August 12, from 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Taking place on the church grounds, this will be an interactive and fun-filled day learning about all the ways God provides for us through his gardens.

This event will be open to the public, K-5th grade, with pre-registration required. Look for a registration link on the website (coming soon!).

For more information on the event, or if you're interested in helping/volunteering, please reach out to Blair Baldwin: [blairbaldwin@southminsterpc.org](mailto:blairbaldwin@southminsterpc.org).

**Women’s Breakfast** meets the first Wednesday of the month – the next gathering is July 5. You can all share your 4th of July experiences! All woman are invited to join this informal group at Danby’s Station at 8:30 a.m. Call, text, or email Gretchen Fleming—(630) 517-0926; [gretchen\_fleming@yahoo.com](mailto:gretchen_fleming@yahoo.com)—if you have any questions. Danby’s Station is at 750 Roosevelt Road, Glen Ellyn.  
  
  
**Jubilee Bucks** (from Bobbi Frey):   
Thanks to all who ordered Jubilee Bucks gift cards in June. Our year-to-date total of “free” money earned from the sale of these cards is $773.49. The next order date will be July 2 (but delivery of orders may be a bit delayed because of the 4th of July holiday). **Donations for PRC (People’s Resource Center)** (also from Bobbi Frey):   
It is amazing how our church has been supporting PRC with our donations! Weekly deliveries of food, personal care products, and cleaning products have been greatly appreciated! The number of clients has been increasing and all items donated greatly needed and utilized. Donation boxes has been relocated a few steps farther into the church... just past the second set of doors (across from the church office).  
  
If you are looking for ideas, donations of rice, dry pasta, and peanut butter are always in need, as are personal care items like toothpaste, bar soap, and diapers size 5-7. All donations are appreciated!  
  
  
**Care Notes:**“In everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.” -Philippians 4:6   
Even though we aren’t all together for worship, we are still collecting prayer requests! Please email or leave a message on our answering machine at 630-469-9149 if you won’t be present to fill out a prayer request slip.

**Friends,  
You are all invited to offer prayer for people whether they are members or not. It would be a joy and very helpful to know how people are doing. If you have submitted a person to be prayed for, can you send an update to the office, please, once in a while? Thank you! Pastor Wendy**  
  
**Joys and Concerns**   **The flowers today** are from Deb Bohi in honor of Deb and Dan’s wedding anniversary.  **We give thanks to God for joys:**   
 - the safe return of our Youth Mission Team after their week of assisting people in Imperial, Pennsylvania  
 - Linda Wolf Jeziorski, though she is weak and in need of much care and rest, has been told “there is no evidence of the disease at this time.” Her immune system is still on the mend, so it will be a while still until we see her in worship.  
**We pray for the whole world and our nation:**   
  - We pray for an end to gun violence in our nation. In mass shootings (involving 4 or more victims) over this past 3-day weekend right here in DuPage County (Willowbrook) one person was killed and 22 injured during a Juneteenth celebration, and in Chicago 4 were killed and 14 injured. Click on [data from the Gun Violence Archive](https://www.gunviolencearchive.org/reports/mass-shooting) to see the current statistics. - Perryton, Texas, which was devasted by a violent tornado last week  
 - Wildfires in Canada   
 - The 4 children found safe in Colombia after 40 days alone in the jungle following a plane crash  
 - The passengers and the searchers of the sub lost while exploring the Titanic site  
  - We continue to pray for peace in the world Ukraine, the Holy Land, Sudan, Myanmar, and everywhere that people face war, civil unrest, and the fight for civil rights.  
**Blessed are those who mourn:**  
 - We pray for Joan and for the Koska sons and their families, mourning the death of Ed. His Service of Witness to the Resurrection was held yesterday at Southminster.  
 - Burton Barr, who passed away Sunday morning  
 - The family of Jon Sutherland, who died last week, and especially for his adult children Eric and Beth. Beth is a friend of Sandy Lopata.  
  - The family and many friends of Dan Bohi, and especially Deb, Jessica and Megan and their spouses, and the four grandchildren.  
 - We thank God for the love that God puts in our hearts for our pets. Blessed are those who mourn the loss of their beloved pets.  
**We lift up those who are affected by cancer, as well as their support systems:** - Helen Shierry is doing well on her chemotherapy. She is experiencing no side effects from the chemo drugs and is feeling good. She is very upbeat and is thankful for all the prayers from our congregation.  
  - Marta Sundquist, who had surgery for a brain tumor. She is safe at home and will need further treatment down the road. Her doctors are putting a plan together. You can be updated on her condition and send her messages online through CaringBridge.org.  
  - We continue to pray for: Steve, Peggy, Cameron A., Rod B., Sam C., Tammy G., Pam G., Amy H., Shelayne L., Jan M., Nikki M., Felicita M., Rebecca M., Tracy N., Tim O., Margaret R., Charlene S., Helen S., Jim S., Connie V., Beverly W., and others we name in our hearts.  
**We pray for all who are recovering or dealing with mental or physical health or other challenges:**  
 - Bob and Rose Audette both have Covid  
 - Jim Smith, recovering at Brookdale   
 - Donna Marton is at CDH with unexplained pain in her back  
  - Our members who are in long term care: **Gail Johnston**, in hospice care at Du Page Convalescent Center (If you send a card, please send to Andrea Schmidt, whose address is in the directory.), and **Grace Van Beveren** at Oak Brook Care      
  - Ian Van Beveren, looking for a place to live in the area  
  - Those struggling with house issues  
  - Those who are suffering from depression   
 - Those making difficult life transitions   
  - Former President Jimmy Carter and his family; he is under in-home hospice care and his wife, Rosalynn has recently been diagnosed with dementia.  
**We pray for the Jeremiah 29 discernment task force as they seek God’s will for Southminster in the 21st century.**May we all be attentive to the Holy Spirit’s leading.

**Caring for you!**Our **Congregational Care Committee** is ready to assist in time of need. If you need assistance from the Congregational Care Ministry or Helping Hands) in June, call Deacon Angela Smith (630-235-1376). You may call Pastor Wendy Boden on her cell or home phone (if she has shared the numbers with you) or leave a message for her at the church office: 630-469-9149. Email Wendy at [wendy@southminsterpc.org](mailto:wendy@southminsterpc.org). (Please note that she can only read email when she is in the office.) You may also call your deacon if you need help from the church.  
  
**Revised Deacon Flock Member Lists:** The Deacons have been finalized for the coming year, and revised "Flock" lists have been created with members assigned to each Deacon. The new list will be posted on the Deacon bulletin board this week, closest to the Parlor/Library. You will see an alphabetic list by church member, with their assigned Deacon representative and phone number. Over the next month, we will also be asking Deacons to contact their members and ensure that they have their contact information, email addresses, and best phone numbers. Thank you to all the Deacons for their willingness to serve. We look forward to the year ahead!    
  
**Pastor Wendy Boden will be away** July 1-5. If you need **pastoral care** during that time, you may call the Rev. Grayson Van Camp at 630-471-4643. You can always call your deacon or Congregational Care/Helping Hands (contact information above). You can always call your deacon or Congregational Care/Helping Hands.  
  
  
**Office Schedule:** The church office is closed on Mondays and Wednesdays.  
Barb’s regular schedule is to be in the office Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from approximately 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. while her son attends his day program on those days. Mondays and Wednesdays she works from home.  
Note that Barb will be away June 22-27. (See below!)  
  
**Calendar Notes/Deadline Changes!**Barb will be away June 22-27, which means there are some deadline changes:  
The due dates for both the last eNotes in June and the July *Dialog* will be the same day—Wednesday, June 28. (Can you have eNotes blurbs turned in by 9:00 a.m. that day?) The eNotes will go out a day late—Thursday, June 29, rather than Wednesday the 29th. The July *Dialog* should go out on Wednesday, July 5… but it’s possible that it will run late and come out on the 6th. We will keep you posted!   
  
  
Grace and peace to you! Remember that we love God, neighbor, and one another. Our address is 680 South Park Blvd., Glen Ellyn, IL 60137 if you would like to set up an online account with your bank or mail in your pledge. Online giving through Vanco is also now an option –for details contact Ron Birchall.

**Dates to remember this week:**   Barb is away through Tuesday, June 27.  
**Sunday, June 25**   
 **Worship** at 9:30 a.m. in person and also live on Facebook.   
 **In-person Fellowship** in the Narthex following the service   
 **Staff Meeting** at 10:45 a.m. in the Pastor’s Office   
 **C.E. Ministry** meeting at 10:45 a.m. in Fellowship Hall  
 **Adult Ed. Bible Study** at 11:15 a.m. either online via Google Meet or by joining   
 Blair in person in the McHenry Parlor/Library **Monday, June 26 – Pastor’s Sabbath**  
**Tuesday, June 27**  
 **Pastor’s Bible Study** at 4:00 p.m.  
 **Pastor’s Prayer meeting** in the Sanctuary from 7:00-7:30 p.m.  
 **Welcome and Outreach** meets at 7:30 p.m. in the McHenry Parlor/Library  
 A.A. meets at 7:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall  
**Wednesday, June 28**  
 **Deadline for both the eNotes and the July *Dialog***  
 **eNotes will go out** a day late (Thursday, June 29 – delayed because of Barb’s   
 vacation)  
**Thursday, June 29** **eNotes going out  
Friday, June 30** A.A. meets at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall  
**Pastor Wendy Boden and Blair Nelson will be away July 1-5   
Next Sunday,** **July 2**   
 **Worship with communion** at 9:30 a.m. in person and also live on Facebook. Giest preacher: Rev. Grayson Van Camp   
 **In-person Fellowship** in the Narthex following the service   
 **No Staff meeting or Adult Ed. Bible Study**

**Bearing Fruit – June 25, 2023**

**Building Bridges**  
  
Dear Friends,  
  
Martin Luther King, Jr. said, “Let’s build bridges, not walls.” Through the centuries and during the last decade many walls have been built to contain others and even foster hate.   
  
However, the Bible talks about tearing down walls. In Ephesians 2:14 we find these wise and loving words: “For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us.” This dividing wall that the Bible talks about was from the Temple in Jerusalem. There was a point in which the gentiles – non-Jewish people – could not enter further. They could not go past the wall in the courtyard. If they did, the punishment was death. It was a lot more than “Keep off the Grass.”  
  
Last Wednesday, June 14, Southminster along with other faith communities created a bridge at the second annual Sounds of Music and Prayer. A lot of trust went into this event; no one censored or edited anyone else in their presentations. There was great acceptance all around as people prayed and shared music. Our pastor, Wendy Boden opened the event in prayer and our Sean Salins played for us. We concluded with ice cream and ice pops. Over 85 attended.   
  
New friendships were formed, and old friendships were enriched. One friendship formed was between our pastor and the music director at St. Barnabas, CJ Kuna. A small group from the local St. Barnabas Episcopal Church presented a new song by her that we will sing today after the Affirmation of Faith: “With Beauty Before Me I Walk.” It is a Native American version of Micah 6:6-8.  
  
Walking humbly with God and one another is a way to bear the fruit of God’s love.

Diagram

Description automatically generated